



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of

Inoue et al.

Serial No.: 09/987,194

Group Art Unit: 3627

Filed: November 13, 2001

Examiner: Gerald J. O'Connor

For: SYSTEM FOR PURCHASE MANAGEMENT AND FOR FACILITATING
DISTRIBUTION

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Prior to initial examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-23 are all the claims presently pending in the application. Claim 23 is newly added. Claims 9-22 have been withdrawn. Of the remaining claims, claims 1 and 23 are independent.